DC

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CATWOMAN™

VS. PUNCHLINE

HOWARD LEON
GANDINI

AGES 13+
DC.COM

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE WORLD'S FIRST SUPER-TEAM?

JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA

THEIR FIRST SERIES IN MORE THAN A DECADE!

WRITTEN BY
GEOFF JOHNS
MAKING HIS EPIC RETURN TO JSA

ART BY
MIKEL JANÍN
THE SUPERSTAR ARTIST OF *BATMAN AND SUPERMAN* AND *THE AUTHORITY*

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NOVEMBER

I CAN TANGLE WITH NOAH MYSELF.

WHAM! WHAM!

I'VE HUNG IN LONG ENOUGH WHILE YOU'RE ON YOUR EUROPEAN VACAY.

OKAY, CAT.

HEY!

WHAM

OH MAN...
C'MON, CATWOMAN...
CALL BACK...I DON'T WANNA *DIE* IN THE TRUNK OF MY EX-BOYFRIEND'S *CAR*...

LOW BATTERY

GOTHAM CITY. NOW.

DARIO, MY DEAR?!

I'M GONNA NEED YOU TO DRIVE.

HKK- HKK- KCCH!

SCREEECH!

BRATTATATATATATATA

AAAAH!

I DON'T KNOW HOW!

TO DRIVE?

...ARE YOU KIDDING ME?!

I SWEAR. FOR ALL THE POWER YOU RICH BOYS HAVE--

SQUISH

THE INCOMPETENCE YOU GET AWAY WITH IS JUST--

--STAGGERING!

SLASH!

YOU'RE CRAZY! HOW'M I SUPPOSE TO DRIVE--

YOU'RE NOT.

UNH!

CAN I SLOW DOWN FIRST--?!

BLAM! BLAM!

--AHH!

WHUD

VRRRRMM

...NOPE!

DARIO, IS THAT *NOAH* BEHIND US?

OH GOD, *LOOKS LIKE IT!*

--WHERE'S *BLACK MASK?*

HE WAS HERE, I *HEARD* HIS *VOICE!*

NOAH'S *LIGHTING US UP*--MAYBE HE *SHOT* ROMAN, TOO?

COULD WE *BE* THAT LUCKY?

BANG

TNK TNK TNK

IT'S POSSIBLE.

MEN I DON'T LIKE *DESTROY* EACH OTHER *ALL THE TIME.*

OPEN UP, DARIO.

BRATTATATTA!

ALRIGHT, YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO LEARN TO DRIVE *RIGHT NOW!*

ALL I KNOW IS "TEN AND TWO!"

FORGET THAT, AND EVERYTHING *ELSE* YOU'VE EVER SEEN IN A MOVIE.

IF WE'RE GOING TO SURVIVE THIS, YOU'RE GONNA NEED TO *TRUST YOUR GUT AND STAY WITH THE FLOW OF TRAFFIC.*

CAN'T I JUST PULL OVER?!

NO! THEY HAVE *MACHINE GUNS* AND *WE DON'T.*

OUTPACING THEM IN THIS SPEEDING HUNK OF METAL IS OUR *BEST DEFENSE.*

HOOONK HONK

VRRROOOOM

THE HIGHWAY SPLITS UP AHEAD--WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF TRAFFIC OR PEOPLE ARE GONNA DIE.

Guess I got some practice on that **road trip** after all...

THERE SHE IS!

DARIO! WHEN I SAY SO...

--GO HARD TO THE LEFT!

...NOW!

SCREEECH

LIKE THAT?!

PURRRFECT.

YOU GOTTA STOP GETTING INVOLVED, CATWOMAN!

TSHHH!

WHAK!

BABY, I GO WHERE I WANT.

LITTLE MEN WITH BIG GUNS DON'T SCARE ME.

THAT GOES FOR DARIO, TOO?

THUD

BRATATATATA

I'LL BET IT DOESN'T!

AAAAAGH!

STAY UP HERE, NOAH.

KEEP RIGHT

Alleytown: 1 MILE

@#$%^! --STOP HER!

CRAZY $#%&@!

THWUD

YOUR BOSS SAYS TO *STOP* ME.

BUT I'M WARNING YOU NOW--

--DON'T TRY!

BEEEEP--

WHUD

Airbags.

Great way to keep the **streets safe.**

PHWUMP!

Alleytown: NEXT RIGHT

If we're fast enough, they'll miss the exit--those boys think they're hard, but even **they** think twice before rolling into Alleytown.

CRAK!

THERE, DARIO!

THE ALLEYTOWN EXIT!

Not me.

That's my **home.**

WHUMP WHUMP WHUMP

...PUNCHLINE AND THE *ROYAL FLUSH GANG?*

WHAT THE *HELL* HAPPENED HERE?

WHAT? IT'S *ALLEYTOWN.*

IT *ALWAYS* LOOKS LIKE @#%$.

SOMEONE CALL 9-1-1!

WHUMP WHUMP WHUMP

STAY HERE!

Hearing someone shout **help** in Alleytown means someone's gonna try and rob you.

Hearing **"Fire!"** in Alleytown means "this robber's gotten wise-- people get suspicious about **help.**"

But **"call 9-1-1"** is **desperate.** An anonymous cry for help in the night--

LET'S *BLOW* BEFORE THE COPS GET HERE!

I DUNNO! THEY TOOK A *LOT* AND SOMETIMES THIS @#$% MAKES PEOPLE *CRAZY!*

HEEEHEHEEEHEE!

WOOOOOOO!

GKK-GKKGK-GKK!

AAHHH!

HA HA!

It means people are **dying.**

HISSS!

PUNCHLINE WOULD BE *SO* STOKED IF WE JUST JUMPED HER ASS--

IT'S *CATWOMAN!* COPS AIN'T COMIN'!

I'D BE *SO STOKED* FOR YOU TO *TRY.*

NEW FRIEND? I'LL TAKE *BOTH* YOUR JEWELS, *TWO OF DIA--*

YOU'RE KIDDING ME.

HURK!

HEY *TWO OF DIAMONDS,* LITTLE *HELP--?*

WHUD!

BILLY?! WITH THE ROYAL FLUSH GANG?!

WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH YOU? I AM SO DISAPPOINTED!

I CAN EXPLAIN!

UNNGH!

THUD

WORKING FOR PUNCHLINE? COOKING DRUGS?!

DO THE OTHER STRAYS KNOW ABOUT THIS?! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE KEEPING ALLEYTOWN SAFE!*

NO NO NO! PLEASE LEMME EXPLAIN, CATWOMAN!

I JUST NEEDED TO PICK UP A QUICK JOB. IT WAS LISTED AS A DELIVERY! I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT FOR, I JUST SAID YEAH.

WASN'T TILL I SHOWED UP THAT THEY SAID IT WAS A WHOLE COSTUMED THING, WHICH IS PART OF LIVING IN GOTHAM, I GUESS, BUT I ALWAYS THINK THEY'RE LAME--

WOW, BILLY, RUDE.

NOT YOU, OTHER PEOPLE!

THEY INVITED ME TO COME TO THIS... PARTY AFTERWARDS. I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THE PUNCHLINE STUFF OR THE X-O CRAP UNTIL I GOT HERE. I WOULD NEVER DO THAT @#$%, YOU KNOW ME.

YEAH, THAT'S WHY I WAS SURPRISED ENOUGH TO KICK YOU! IN MY LINE OF WORK, SOMETIMES YOU GET DOPPELGÄNGERS.

I'M CONTACTING LEO NOW TO MAKE SURE THERE ARE ACTUALLY AMBULANCES COMING.

*READ ABOUT BILLY AND THE ALLEYTOWN STRAYS IN CATWOMAN VOL. 6: FEAR STATE --JESS C.

YOU BELIEVE ME, RIGHT CATWOMAN!?

WEEEOOOOOEEE

OF COURSE I DO--NOW LET'S GET OUT OF THE WAY SO THE E.M.T.s CAN HELP THESE POOR CLOWNS AND WE DON'T GET NABBED BY THE COPS.

PLEASE DON'T TELL THE OTHER STRAYS.

I WON'T.

I'M A LOCAL LIKE YOU, AND WE DON'T RAT OUT OUR OWN. BUT I NEED TO KNOW EVERYTHING YOU LEARNED ON THIS LITTLE JOB THAT NEVER HAPPENED.

PUNCHLINE'S GOT THE WHOLE ROYAL FLUSH GANG FUNDED AND ARMED.

THE DRUG IS CALLED X-O, AND AS YOU CAN SEE--IT DOESN'T GO DOWN SMOOTH. IT'S GROSS STREET STUFF, AND IT'S MAKING PEOPLE REALLY SICK.

I DIDN'T GET TO GO INSIDE, BUT I KNOW THEY'RE HANGIN' AROUND THE OLD ACE CHEMICAL BOTTLING PLANT IN ALLEYTOWN, THE SHUT-DOWN ONE.

BOTTLING AND SHIPPING PLANT HAS A DOCK. AND IF IT HAS DOCKS, IT'S UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE HASIGAWA CLAN.

LIE LOW. STAY AWAY FROM THESE GOONS AND MAKE SURE KIDS AREN'T GETTING AHOLD OF THIS X-O CRAP.

YOU'RE A GOOD KID.

BUT I'VE GOT ANOTHER WOUNDED STRAY I'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO. GIVE SHOES AND SKIDMARK MY LOVE?

AW, SURE...

I KNOW HOW TO HANDLE PUNCHLINE.

CATWOMAN'S SECRET APARTMENT, THE TRIXIE HOTEL.

BEEP

!

...S'LINA--
AH!

CAN YOU SIT UP?

THAT BULLET ONLY *GRAZED* YOU, DARIO, SO DON'T PLAN ON BEING *SPOON-FED.*

HEH. Y'KNOW, I ALSO GOT THE #@$% BEAT OUTTA ME, BUT YEAH, I CAN FEED MYSELF.

IF YOU EAT THIS WHILE I'M GONE YOU CAN HAVE A BOWL OF ICE CREAM WHEN I GET BACK.

I'D RATHER HAVE A STIFF *DRINK.*

NOT WITH THE PAINKILLERS *YOU'RE* ON.

YOU GOIN' BACK OUT? YOU GOTTA *SLEEP.*

NO SUCH LUCK. THERE'S A *BIG GAY GOODFELLA* BLEEDING IN MY *BED.*

HAAAH-- DON'T MAKE ME *LAUGH,* IT *HURTS.*

HA HA...*HEY.* LISTEN...

I'M...*SO* SORRY I DIDN'T GET TO YOU SOONER, DARIO. I'M GOING TO FEEL GUILTY ABOUT THAT FOR A *LONG* TIME.

WHY? 'CAUSE YOU WAS IN BED WITH *VALMONT?!*

C'MAHN. I'M HAPPY FOR YA. THERE WAS A TIME I *WAS HOPING TO BEAT YOU TO IT.* I'M ALIVE, AND I'M EATING PASTA IN BED. I'LL BE *FINE.*

THIS NOAH @#$%, NOW *THAT'S* GONNA BE HARDER FOR ME TO DEAL WITH. IN A WEEK OR SO, I'M NOT GONNA GIVE A DAMN ABOUT BEING LOCKED IN THE TRUNK OF A CAR.

BUT I'M *STILL* MAD THAT HE NEVER EVEN REALLY *DUMPED* ME. WE JUST WENT TO *WAR.* AND HE SIDED WITH MY *DAD.*

THAT'S HOW I *KNOW* WHY YOU'RE BEATING YOURSELF UP.

IT'S 'CAUSE YOU FEEL *GUILTY* ABOUT THAT *EX* OF YOURS YOU WERE TELLING ME ABOUT.

...EX SOUNDS SO... *FINAL.*

IT'S JUST A *BREAK.* I HOPE HE'S OUT MEETING PEOPLE TOO.

IT MIGHT SOUND LIKE A LIE... BUT I *DO.*

WHEN I THINK ABOUT B--*MM.* MY *EX...* I DON'T *FEEL* LIKE HE'S THE PAST I'M *RUNNING* FROM, I FEEL LIKE HE'S MY *FUTURE.*

AND I JUST HOPE THAT HE STILL WANTS WHO I AM WHEN WE *GET* THERE.

WELL HE *BETTER.*

THE SELINA KYLE *I'VE* COME TO KNOW *AIN'T* THE KIND OF WOMAN TO *WAIT* ON *ANYONE.*

LATER...

KRAK!

KRAK!

Eiko and I have an agreement--when I'm away, she plays the Cat.

--I *LET* YOU CATCH ME...

It's a break for us both--there are lots of things a Hasigawa crime boss can't do herself that a little alley cat can.

LIARRR!

HOW *DARE* YOU!

DID YOU COME TO *PLAY,* FELLOW CAT?

REGRETTABLY, NO--

I JUST GOT BACK, AND I ALREADY HAVE *BAD* NEWS, EIKO.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE ACTIVITY AT THE ACE CHEMICAL PLANT IN ALLEYTOWN?

AH. *THAT* OLD PLACE?

IT'S LEGALLY ABANDONED, BUT I HAVE A CONTACT WHO ENSURES THAT THE DOCK REMAINS EMPTY...*UNLESS* I DECIDE THE HASIGAWA WOULD LIKE TO USE IT. WE *HAVEN'T.* THERE'S NOTHING TO IMPORT IN ALLEYTOWN.

THERE IS *NOW.*

YOUR CONTACT IS *COMPROMISED,* BECAUSE *PUNCHLINE* IS SNIFFING AROUND THERE. I THINK SHE PLANS TO USE THAT PLANT TO COOK AND SHIP DRUGS UNDER OUR NOSES.

...ALEXIS KAYE? THAT RIDICULOUS CLOWN GIRL WHO JUST GOT OUT OF PRISON?

SHE'S MADE A MISTAKE CHOOSING MY TERRITORY.

EIKO, BE CAREFUL.

I WON'T BE GOING IN MY CAT COWL. PUNCHLINE HAS CROSSED THE HASIGAWA, SO THAT IS WHO SHE'LL SEE.

BUT I *WILL* BE KEEPING THE CAT COSTUME. I *ENJOY* OUR *ARRANGEMENT.*

WE NEED A *PLAN--*

FORGIVE ME, I THOUGHT I WAS SEEING *DOUBLE...*

...I SIMPLY *HAD* TO GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO CHECK MY *VISION.*

VALMONT!

I'LL LEAVE YOU TWO ALONE.

EIKO, BE CAREFUL GOING AFTER PUNCHLINE-- DON'T BE *HASTY* BECAUSE YOU'RE *ANGRY.*

CATWOMAN... HAVE YOU SLEPT?

WHY DOES EVERYONE KEEP ASKING ME THAT?!

...HAVE YOU?

...I...HAVE *NOT...*

DARIO'S IN MY BED, AND I HAD TO COME TALK TO EIKO.

I HAVE A BED AT THE GOTHAM HILLMONT UNDER AN ASSUMED NAME.

YOU WOULD BE SAFE RESTING THERE, IF YOU'D LIKE.

BUT I WON'T ASSUME THAT JUST BECAUSE A CAT HAS SAT IN MY LAP *ONCE,* IT WILL DO SO WHENEVER I *CALL.*

THE HILLMONT... THAT'S *ALL THE WAY* ACROSS TOWN...

LATER.

I GUESS YOU'LL HAVE TO SHOW ME YOUR HOTEL ROOM LATER? THIS ROOFTOP WASN'T QUITE AS RESTFUL AS I'D HOPED.

STILL... REJUVENATING.

...I PROMISED YOU *REST.*

I HAVE TOO MUCH TO *DO.*

FOR A WOMAN KNOWN AS THE WORLD'S GREATEST *THIEF,* YOU NEVER SEEM TO STEAL A MOMENT FOR *YOURSELF.*

I'M NOT FROM THE HIGH-ROLLER WORLD LIKE YOU, HANDSOME. WHEN I SLACK OFF, PEOPLE GET HURT.

HAVE YOU EVER HAD ANYONE *ENCOURAGE* YOU TO CHASE YOUR DESIRES? JUST FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR OWN PLEASURE?

OR HAS *WANTING THINGS* ALWAYS MADE YOU FEEL LIKE A *THIEF?*

EVERYTHING I HAVE, I'VE HAD TO *STEAL.*

WHAT IS IT THAT YOU WANT? A MAN LIKE *YOU* HAS *EVERYTHING.*

I DON'T WISH TO OWN THINGS, I WISH TO *EXPERIENCE* THEM. I FIND JOY IN *WANTING.*

THE WHOLE WORLD IS AN ARRAY OF PLEASURES TO EXPERIENCE, QUESTIONS TO ANSWER, THE JOY OF *SEEKING AND FINDING,* WANTING AND *GETTING.*

IS IT PERHAPS A SELFISH PLEASURE? YES, BUT IT IS ALSO THE MOST *HONEST* ONE.

COME BACK, PLEASE? LAST TIME I WILL ASK.

PRR. I'M NOT USED TO BEING WITH A MAN SO COMFORTABLE WITH HIS OWN *DESIRES.*

MAYBE WANTING THINGS *DOES* MAKE ME FEEL LIKE A THIEF.

...MAYBE THAT'S WHY I *LOVE* IT.

GO. TO WHERE YOU ARE NEEDED.

THE SHARP *PLEASURE OF WAITING* UNTIL I SEE YOU AGAIN IS ENOUGH.

What do those stupid books call it?

WHAK!

A love language?

I swear I didn't set this up on purpose.

To you, stalking him like this looks creepy, but I promise...he does it to me, too.

WHAK!

I dozed off for longer than I meant to, and this just happens to be the next appointment on my schedule.

WZZ. WZZZZZZ

ZZZ--

I NEED TO TALK TO YOU.

...

...I *WANT* TO TALK TO YOU.

Don't let the sweetness fool you.

A conversation like this is like playing chess with a master.

It's **thrilling.**

It's **exciting.**

YOU'RE *ALWAYS* WELCOME TO TALK TO ME, CAT.

BAT.

DO YOU WANT TO GO SOMEWHERE... WITHOUT THE MASKS?

I've **slept** next to this man naked for more nights than I can count, but it's that sense of the **future** again--

NO. IT FEELS TOO NAKED TO TAKE THEM OFF.

When next he sees my face, I want to be **ready** for him.

I JUST WANT YOUR BLESSING ***AND*** YOUR HELP. KEEP ***CLEAR*** OF ALLEYTOWN AND LET ME WORK?

WHY DON'T I DO YOU ONE BETTER--

I'VE GOT A LINE ON PUNCHLINE OF MY OWN, AND I DON'T WANT HER IN THERE ANY MORE THAN YOU DO. I'LL KEEP ALLEYTOWN CLEAR ***AND*** LET YOU WORK.

NO ***KIDS*** ON THIS ONE. NOT EVEN ***NIGHTWING,*** HE'S TOO RISKY WITH HIS HEART.

THIS IS GOING TO BE ***DANGEROUS,*** AND IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO ONE OF THEM, I'LL ***NEVER*** FORGIVE MYSELF.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ***ME.***

BUT I'M NOT YOUR *ONLY* ALLY, CATWOMAN.

AND IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'VE GOT A BIG PLAN.

"YOU HAVE A *LOT* OF ALLIES. A LOT OF *FRIENDS.* AND A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO *TRUST* YOU.

"A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO ARE WILLING TO *FIGHT* FOR YOUR CAUSE.

"...SO YOU'LL FIND FOLLOWERS IN UNEXPECTED PLACES."

"EVEN IF THEY DON'T KNOW ALL YOUR INTENTIONS, THEY TRUST YOUR *ACTIONS.*

"YOU'VE SHOWN YOURSELF TO BE A *LEADER.*

CATWOMAN

FURIOUS HEARTS PART 2 OF 3

TINI HOWARD STORY NICO LEON ART
VERONICA GANDINI COLORS LUCAS GATTONI LETTERS
JEFF DÉKAL COVER SOZOMAIKA VARIANT COVER
TULA LOTAY 1:25 VARIANT COVER
JIM BALENT '90s REWIND VARIANT COVER
JESSICA BERBEY ASSISTANT EDITOR
JESSICA CHEN EDITOR
BEN ABERNATHY GROUP EDITOR

AND YOU?

WILL *YOU* FOLLOW MY LEAD ON THIS ONE?

I WILL.

I *ALWAYS* TRUST YOU TO GET THE JOB DONE.

"NO MATTER *WHAT* SURPRISES GET THROWN YOUR WAY."

"Oh Bat, you know me...

"I'm hard to surprise."

NEXT: A CAT, A CROW, AND THEIR CREW!

DC
MY NAME IS JAIME REYES. I SWEAR I HAVE THIS UNDER CONTROL.
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WRITTEN BY
JOSH TRUJILLO
ART BY
ADRIAN GUTIERREZ
STUDY. STOP VILLAINS. SAVE PALMERA CITY. REPEAT.
BLUE BEETLE
GRADUATION DAY
NOVEMBER
6 ISSUES

DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

BLUE BEETLE GRADUATION DAY

WRITTEN BY JOSH TRUJILLO
ART BY ADRIAN GUTIERREZ

NAME

My name is Jaime Reyes... sometimes Blue Beetle depending on if you're a super-villain or not.

THAT'S ME!

ALSO ME!

WHO AM I?

Years ago, a mystical sci-fi scarab fell out of the sky and fused itself to my back. PERMANENTLY. Ever since, we've been off fighting space invaders, evil wizards, you name it! My parents are sending me to live with my tías Gloria and Marisol for the summer until I figure out what my future is...but when you have a thousand-year-old scarab on your back, it's not just the future you have to worry about, it's the past too.

The family. They love me...so much so that they are sending me away for the summer.

Here

New baddie? Like me but yellow?

To the Real World...

JAIME REYES

I swear I have this under control

DON'T MISS BLUE BEETLE: GRADUATION DAY, ON SALE THIS NOVEMBER!

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